

Exodus 25:23 - 26:37 - Thursday, March 26th, 2009

- We left off at verse 22 in chapter 25 last week, and will now pick it up beginning in verse 23, and Lord willing get through chapter 26.
- The rest of our study in this amazing book of Exodus will be supremely about the tabernacle, and God's purpose in having them build it.
- At the risk of being redundant, I need to say once again that we are in for one of the most fascinating studies in the entire Bible.

23 "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 24 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. 25 You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. 26 And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs. 27 The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. 28 And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. 29 You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. 30 And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

- Here Moses is given specific instructions about the building of the table of showbread as it's been called. Again, note the explicit details.
- This clearly speaks of and points to the communion table, or the Lord's Table, as it was eaten before the "face of God, in His presence."

31 "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece.

- Now we have the detailed instructions for the lampstand, which is actually the Hebrew word; "menorah," made out of hammered gold.
- It's also interesting to note that this is made of pure gold, not wood covered with gold. This speaks of Jesus' purity without blemish.
- This menorah held oil lamps, not wax candles, and was placed on the other side of the Tabernacle opposite the Table of Showbread.

32 And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

- It's not just that the menorah points to Jesus, it's that it also points to our saving relationship in and through only Jesus and the cross.
- Notice that there were six branches coming out of the sides, three to a side, from out of the one, for a total of seven branches.
- Six, the number of man, falls short of seven, the number of completion. All fall short, save One, Who completed the work on the cross.

33 three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower -- and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. 34 On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. 35 And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand.

- The bowl for the oil on the lamps was to be made like almond blossoms. Why almond blossoms ...because of what they represent.
- The almonds blossom is pure white, and the first tree to blossom in the springtime. This is Jesus' resurrection as the firstfruit.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. NIV

36 Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. 37 You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. 38 And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. 39 It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. 40 And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

- Again, specific details like its one hammered piece of pure gold. Only one and it was to be arranged so as to give light in front of it.
- There was only one source of light in the Tabernacle. Jesus is the light, and the only source of light as the only way to salvation.
- It's also interesting to note that the lampstand had no dimensions. One has suggested that this points to eternity, with no dimensions.

26:1 "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.

- Moses is given specific detailed instructions for making "ten" curtains that will cover the tabernacle in four different layers.
- It's interesting to note that "ten" is the number of the Law and man's responsibility and we see it throughout the pages of Holy Writ.

"As a basis of the decimal system, Ten has been a significant number in all historical ages. This is a number of Testimony. Considered as twice Five, Ten stands for responsibility, intensified, signifying the measure of responsibility and its judgment or reward. This is a number used under the Law. Man was responsible under the Law to keep the Commandments and bear a testimony for God. This number is made up of the sum of the world number Four and Six the number of man. It is looked upon as a complete number as Three, Seven and Twelve. Man has Ten digits on his hands and feet. There were Ten Patriarchs before the flood. (Genesis 5) God gave the Ten Commandments to man for him to bear Testimony before God and man. There were Ten Plagues upon Egypt and Pharaoh during the days of Moses. (Exodus 7:12) Abraham prayed for Ten righteous people within the wicked city of Sodom. He wanted a Testimony for God. In the parable of the Ten virgins, it gives the legal number necessary for a Jewish function or wedding. We have the Ten servants to whom were entrusted Ten pounds and one was rewarded by being given authority over Ten cities. (Luke 19:13-17)

- It's also worthy of noting how that there were to be artistic designs of cherubim weaved on the inside layers of the curtains.
- I believe the significance of this is two-fold; first, the tabernacle is a picture, or model of the heavenly scene with cherubim all around.
- Second; the tabernacle is created from the inside out which I believe points to how God works in our lives; from the inside out.

2 The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements.3 five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another.4 And you shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.5 fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is on the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another.6 And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle.

- These "Ten" curtains were to be coupled together as two sets of "Five," which is interesting given that "Five" is the number of grace.
- One commentator has suggested that this was why the Ten curtains and Ten commandments were in two sets of Five on each.

- Also, these Ten curtains were bound together with 50 gold rings. 50 is the number of grace, gold symbolic of deity, and rings, love.
- Perhaps this was God's way of saying that it's by the grace-5 of God-gold, that we are saved-50, because of His infinite love-rings.
- Love fulfills or completes the first five and second five commandments. Loving God fulfills the first five, and loving man, the second five.

- There's something else we absolutely can't miss here; notice the four different colors used in the layers of the two sets of five curtains.
- Again, the significance is two-fold. First, what each of the colors represents and second, what having four colors and covers represent.

1 ST COVERING	REPRESENTS	PRESENTS
PURPLE	ROYALTY	MATTHEW – KING OF THE JEWS
SCARLET	SIN	MARK – SUFFERING SERVANT
WHITE (LINEN)	PURITY	LUKE - RIGHTEOUS HUMANITY
BLUE	HEAVENLY	JOHN – DEITY

7 "You shall also make curtains of goats' hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven curtains.8 The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements.9 And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent.10 You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set.11 And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.12 The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle.13 And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.

- Moses is given the instructions for 2nd covering which is similar to the 1st; however, there are some peculiar differences between them.
- Notice that this second layer has eleven curtains instead of ten, and that it was to hang over the sides so that it would be seen publicly.
- It's interesting because, as one has suggested, 3 of the 33 years, or "1/11" of Jesus' life was when He was seen in His public ministry.

- There are some additional fascinating details given about this 2nd covering that I believe have prophetic significance pointing to Jesus.

2 ND COVERING	REPRESENTATION
GOAT / BLACK / BRONZE	SATAN / SIN / JUDGMENT
11 CURTAINS ALTOGETHER	11 THE NUMBER OF DISCORD
5 ONE SET OF CURTAINS	5 THE NUMBER OF GRACE
6 THE OTHER SET OF CURTAINS	6 THE NUMBER OF MAN

14 "You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.

- Now we get into the 3rd and 4th covering of both ram skins dyed red, and then badger, or perhaps porpoise or sea-cow skins over that.
- You can't help but notice that the tabernacle, or tent if you prefer, would go unnoticed outwardly, because badger skins were common.
- Again, this pictures the person of Jesus Christ as the prophet Isaiah described Him in his prophecy about His outward appearance.

Isaiah 53:2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. NIV

- It's also interesting to note that the ram skin was to be died red, again, a picture of His blood-shed, as the sacrificed ram in our stead.

15 "And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright.16 ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the width of each board.17 two tenons shall be in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle.

- Moses is now given the instructions for the boards which were made of acacia wood and were to be assembled in a specific way.
- Notice that each board was 1½ cubits and would stand when joined together with another in order to complete the structure as 3 cubits.
- One has suggested that this "3" cubits is a picture of the Trinity which, when joined together, completes the Godhead standing as one.

18 And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side.19 You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.20 And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, there shall be twenty boards 21 and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards.22 For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards.23 And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle.24 They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be for the two corners.25 So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver -- sixteen sockets -- two sockets under each of the boards. 26 "And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle,27 five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the far side westward.28 The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end.29 You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.30 And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

- I know there's a lot of detail packed into these verses, so I would like to attempt to unpack the prophetic significance of all these details.

3 RD & 4 TH COVERING	REPRESENTATION
BOARDS OF ACACIA WOOD OUT OF DESERT	WE'RE TAKEN OUT OF THE WORLD BY HIM
BOARDS SET WITH EAST OPENING	WE'RE COMING BACK WITH HIM (GATE)
BOARDS OF EQUAL HEIGHT	WE'RE EQUAL IN HIM (NO JEW OR GREEK)
BOARDS 1 ½ (INCOMPLETE #) CUBITS WIDE	WE'RE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT HIM
BOARDS COULD ONLY STAND WHEN LINKED	WE'RE LINKED BECAUSE OF HIM
BOARDS 3 CUBITS WIDE WHEN LINKED	WE'RE COMPLETED IN HIM (3 TRINITY)
BOARDS STAYED UP IN SOCKETS OF SILVER	WE'RE REDEEMED (SILVER) BY HIM
BOARDS COVERED IN GOLD	WE'RE CLOTHED BY HIM (GOLD DEITY)
BOARDS KEPT TOGETHER BY "5" BARS EPHESIANS 4:11-13 IT WAS HE WHO GAVE SOME TO BE APOSTLES, SOME TO BE PROPHETS, SOME TO BE EVANGELISTS, AND SOME TO BE PASTORS AND TEACHERS, TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE, SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP UNTIL WE ALL REACH UNITY IN THE FAITH AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD AND BECOME MATURE, ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST.	WE'RE KEPT TOGETHER BY "5" FOR HIM APOSTLES FOR GOVERNING PROPHETS FOR GUIDING EVANGELISTS FOR GATHERING PASTORS FOR GUIDING TEACHERS FOR GROUNDING
GOLD RINGS UNITED THE BOARDS & BARS	GOD'S (GOLD) LOVE (RINGS) KEEPS UNITY

31 "You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.

- The curtain was to be woven with the colors of blue and purple, then it was to be woven with an artistic design of the cherubim.
- I believe this pictures Christ's flesh and bones or His body, if you prefer. The cherubim are the ones that were at his birth and death.
- The writer of Hebrews refers to this as the veil, or curtain, being the body of Christ, that when torn gave us access to the Father.

Hebrews 10:19-23 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. NIV

THE CURTAIN	HIS BODY
Blue and Purple	Bruised Blue and Purple
Scarlet	He Bled and Died
White Linen	His White Bones Shown Through

32 You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver.

- The curtain was to hang on a four pillar post of acacia wood/humanity covered with gold/deity, using gold hooks upon silver sockets.
- This pictures Jesus and His finished work when He hung on a four pillar wooden post that would become known as a Roman cross.

THE CURTAIN	THE CROSS
Blue	<i>He left His</i> HEAVENLY...
Purple	<i>place of</i> ROYALTY...
Scarlet	<i>to pay our</i> PENALTY...
White	<i>giving to us</i> PURITY...
Gold	<i>then being</i> DEITY...
Wood	<i>prepared for</i> HUMANITY...
Silver	<i>redemption for</i> ETERNITY.

33 And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.34 You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.

- Now for the Ark. It was to be placed behind the curtain in the Holy of Holies or "Most Holy Place," separated by the veil that was hung.
- This veil was to be a divider that would separate the holy place from the Most Holy Place where only the High Priest had access.

35 You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.

- The table of showbread and lampstand were to be placed outside the curtain where they could be accessed every day by the priests.
- I believe that this paints a beautiful picture for us in our access to the Lord and His table on a daily basis, for our daily bread, as it were.

36 "You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.37 And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

- The screen for the door of the tabernacle was to hang of five (grace), posts, with five bronze (judgment), bases.
- This pictures His amazing grace in saving us from the judgment of God, when Jesus died and rose again tearing the veil in two.

THE CURTAIN	HIS GLORY
Separated Man from the Glory of God.	Man falls short of the Glory of God. Rom. 3:23
Torn (top to bottom) when He gave up His Spirit.	He becomes sin (top to bottom). Matt.27:50-51
Allowed only the High Priest in one day a year.	Our High Priest, in once and for all. Heb. 9:11-12
No longer keeps me from His presence and glory	I can come boldly into His presence. Heb. 4:16